



the **BLACK** *bitch*

60p **ISSUE 36** AUG 2015

Linlithgow's news by Linlithgow people



**100%
LOCAL**

**LINLITHGOW
FOLK
FESTIVAL**

*Friendly folk
all set for
Festival p12*



**Burgh Beautiful
at the ready p6**



**Food & Drink Festival
at your service p8**



**Linlithgow's 10K
news roundup p18**

Plus

Folk Fae Lithgae, New Hopetoun Gardens, Kumon Study Centre, Community Health Linlithgow Players, Classic Cars, Linlithgow 10K, Book Review... and lots more!

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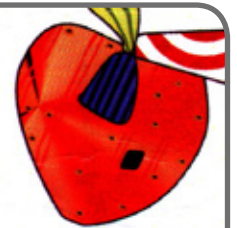
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another
supermarket*

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*Next copy
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22 Sept 2015.*

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Images: P3, P6 Chris Long & Harry Millar. P4, P15 Martine Stead.
P10 Dougal and Lesley. P11 Decibel Rouge. P12, P13 Linlithgow Folk Festival.
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Folk Fae Lithgae

MARTIN GODLEY

Local foot care specialist, Martin Godley, is about to embark on an exciting new chapter in his career and he wants to thank everyone who has supported him in the five years since he established his practice.

He is re-branding the business as “Linlithgow Sports Podiatry and Chiropody Clinic” and is moving soon to a self-contained unit next door to his current premises in Braehead Road. The new clinic will offer enhanced facilities and Martin also hopes that it will provide more opportunities for an educational role in local schools and organisations.

Outlining his plans, he told me:

“I’m so excited about it, because it has taken five years to get to this point. I started off renting a room one day a week in a local hairdresser and I am now going to have my own place. It’s brilliant and I have to say a massive thank you to all my patients who have stuck with me from the beginning. Without their loyalty and the trust they have in me as a practitioner, I wouldn’t be where I am now.”

Martin was born in Glasgow in 1977 and moved to Linlithgow in 1982 with his Mum and Dad, Cathy and Michael and elder sister Susan. He attended St Joseph’s Primary, where he was a very enthusiastic member of the all-conquering football team. His sporting interests later led him to study for an HND in Sports Therapy and then for a degree in Podiatry, which is the new name for chiropody, as Martin explained:

“Chiropody was where people just cut callouses and corns and toe nails, whereas we actually look at the mechanics of how a person walks and the force that goes through the lower limbs. So we’re not just concerned with the foot, we got right up to the lower back as well, because an action on the foot can have relevance to an action at the knee,

hip, pelvis, lower back, right up to the knee as well. So we look at things from a more specialist area with regards to the mechanics.”

During his studies, Martin gained work experience with Hibernian and Falkirk Football Clubs and NHS Lothian. After graduating in 2001, he worked with NHS Grampian, but a life-long desire to travel saw him take a career break and go round the world. After returning to Scotland, he was offered a position in Bermuda. A five and a half year stay, including specialist training in the United States, gave Martin the perfect opportunity to enhance his career. He lived the island life-style and even played football for one of the local semi-professional teams. He later moved to a leading clinic in Sydney, Australia, but returned to Scotland to help look after his Dad, who had become ill.

After his many years away, Martin is now glad to be firmly ensconced back in his home town, with his wife Mhari (nee Clement) and two young sons, Johnny and Luke.

“I travelled the world twice and came home and married a girl from the same street”, he laughed. “It’s nice to feel settled.”

Martin retains his passion for football and has a great interest in sports therapy and physiotherapy. He treats a lot of sports people, including the golfer, Stephen Gallacher. Martin would dearly love to get back into football coaching again, once his new clinic is firmly established.

“I really appreciate the support I get from the local community and am very keen to put something back into it”, he says.

Murdoch Kennedy



THE PLANNING SYSTEM - OR HOW WE ENDED UP WITH A SUPERMARKET ON THE EDINBURGH ROAD...



This is an abridged version of an article prepared by Dr John R Kelly, Vice-Chair, Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council. The full article can be found on the Black Bitch website: www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk - Latest News

The objective of the planning system for Linlithgow is to encourage growth in the local economy, contribute to a better quality of life for all Linlithgow residents whilst protecting the environment for future generations.

To achieve this objective West Lothian Council will:

> develop plans (the Local Development Plan) which set out how Linlithgow should change and make clear the policies used to make decisions about planning applications.

> manage development through the process of assessing planning applications in accordance with the Local Development Plan and the agreed policies.

> enforce action where development takes place without planning permission or is contrary to the terms of the planning permission.

So how did we end up with a supermarket on the Edinburgh Road?

Following site clearance, the first planning application was made in 2004 by Miller Homes Ltd for a development of 64 flats, subsequently refused on the grounds of lack of educational capacity. A second application, this time for a 174 space temporary car park, was made in 2011. Successful this time but never implemented although a proposal for a 12,000 sq ft retail unit emerged at that time but no formal application was lodged.

In February 2015 McTaggart & Mickel Homes Ltd submitted a planning application for the 12,000 sq ft retail unit. Objectors focused on the impact on the High St, the fact that planning permission had already been given for a 12,000 sq ft extension of the Tesco store, the vacant space at Stockbridge, the inaccessibility of the site to standard articulated delivery vehicles (due to the two low bridges) and the fact that the site was the last available opportunity to establish adequate station car parking. However, the recommendation of the planning officer's report was to grant planning permission. The application was considered by the Development Management Committee on 3rd June 2015.

Planning applications can be dealt with in one of three ways:

> The majority, about 95%, are dealt with under delegated powers by the Planning Officer.

> Applications which attract objections are dealt with by the Development Management Committee, comprising 9 Councillors, Cllr Tom Kerr is Vice Chair and Linlithgow's only representative.

> Major applications are considered by all Councillors meeting as the planning committee.

At the Development Management Committee on 3rd June there were no Linlithgow Councillors present when the decision was taken. The Planning Officer set out a logical and reasoned argument as to why the application should be approved, explaining that the proposal "does not conflict with policy" rather than "contributes to policy". Representatives of the Community Council and the Civic Trust were each allowed 5 minutes to explain why the application should not be approved. The objections were subsequently countered by comments from the Planning Officer for example:

> It is not the role of the Council to "protect" any particular retailer.

> It is up to the eventual tenant of the new supermarket to organise deliveries using appropriate vehicles.

> Permission for a car park was given previously but this did not materialise.

> There is a strong history of retailing on this site.

Following the planning officer's summing up Councillor Davidson (Broxburn, Uphall and Winchburgh ward) proposed that the planning application be approved. Approval was unanimous.

Extract Critique of the planning process.

> The planning process relies on a Local Development Plan which is periodically updated. The 2009 Local Development Plan is out of date.

> The process of consultation relies on a quick response by the Community Council which is a statutory consultee and therefore should be consulted, not always easy at short notice during summer holidays.

> Objections have to be lodged before planning reports are publically available.

> Objections have to be made on planning grounds, difficult without knowledge of planning law and a clearly worded Local Development Plan.

> The Planning Officer's report is rarely publically available more than 5 working days before the Council meeting held to decide the application.

> The Planning Officer has unlimited time to address the points raised by objectors.

> The Planning Officer's recommendation is generally that proposed and supported by the Committee.

> The points made verbally by objectors and the Planning Officer's verbal comments are not minuted.

It might appear that the West Lothian Council planning system is configured to make community involvement difficult but this cannot be its intention. What is important is for the community to be involved in the Development Plan process. We need to be clear about what is acceptable and what is unacceptable for Linlithgow so that we can grow the local economy, contribute to a better quality of life for all of us whilst protecting the environment for our children.

Now is the time for action.

The Community Council will regularly update on consultation events so that we incorporate our preference for the future of Linlithgow into the 2016 Local Development Plan. No action could result in an unwanted development coming to your neighbourhood sooner than you think!

BURGH BEAUTIFUL A 'BLOOMING GOOD SUMMER'. BUT ONLY IF YOU ARE A PLANT!



Tue
29
SEPT

We hope everyone has enjoyed the splendid show of hanging baskets, tubs and beds around the town this year. While the weather for humans has not been the best the temperatures and moisture levels seem to have been ideal for the flowers.

So why an article for the Black Bitch?

Well we are not entering a competition this year but we would still like to celebrate the efforts from everyone to make the town look as good as it does this year. Many people are involved in the work, the committee who organise things, the folk who empty and fill the baskets, plant up the tubs and beds before watering, and caring for them.

There are many different displays, from the hanging baskets, the 'permanent planting' in some beds, the highly regimented displays of the 'Snake Bed', the 'climate challenge' bed at the Vennel planted by Transition Linlithgow who sowed the wild flower bed at the Vennel gardens and planted the fruit trees by the lochside and at Beechwood. Maybe some of you will have seen the wildflower planting by the new cycle ramp to the Leisure Centre. These flowers are from seeds funded by Comic Relief, through Foundation Scotland. Comic Relief spends money raised by its fund raising campaigns, Red Nose Day and Sport Relief. More wild flowers are currently being planted from seeds donated by Linlithgow Angling Club and raised by Historic Scotland in Edinburgh and WLC. All should give a splendid display.

And do not forget the four tubs at St Michael's Well, being cared for by Linlithgow Grange Rotary.

On Platform 1 at the station there is a new 'steam train' joining the existing beds and tubs planted by Burgh Beautiful volunteers under Scotrail's station adoption scheme. All have to be cared for during the season, so we have a contractor who waters the baskets, but we depend on support from the many groups and individuals who sponsor baskets and tubs, the town centre BID who are assisting us with the costs this year, the Town Centre Management Group, who support us in funding facilities that help reduce our costs. This year Scottish Water have supplied a hydrant that enables our contractor to do the watering faster.

We thank all the folk who contribute at collections, buy plants at our plant sales and the Advent Fayre and tell us they appreciate the results.

We are trialling 'peat free' compost in some of the baskets to improve our environment, so if you see people making notes they are recording the growth.

As always Burgh Beautiful need more volunteers and this is becoming more important for the town as the Council reduces spending further. If you would like to help contact burgh-beautiful@lct.org.uk. Do look at the Burgh Beautiful Facebook page for our latest news!

We are able to offer advice to Linlithgow folk during the year because, although we do not have great expertise, we often know someone who does! We have offered advice and support to several residents, and organisations including the 4th West Lothian Scouts, the Linlithgow Bridge BID and the primary schools and we have a real interest in the local environment. So please come along and listen to a talk sponsored by Burgh Beautiful, Scottish Wildlife Trust and the River Avon Federation:

**Reviving nature's arteries
Tuesday 29 September 7.30 – 9.00pm
in Linlithgow Burgh Halls**

Clean waterways, riverbanks and woodland walks without invasive foreign species are important for all. This illustrated talk by **Alison Baker of the River Forth Fisheries Trust** (which was established to advance the environmental protection and improvement of all rivers which enter the Firth of Forth) and **Harry Millar of the River Avon Federation** will tell us about the cleaning of the River after major industrial pollution and the threat from invasive plants and wildlife.

This talk is a fundraising event on behalf of Linlithgow Burgh Beautiful and Lothians Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. Admission is free, but donations will be gratefully received.

**Chris Gunstone and Averil
and Gavin Stewart**

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A **FREE TRIAL** AT YOUR LOCAL KUMON STUDY CENTRE



Ella Ritchie opened the Linlithgow Study Centre in 2003, providing individualised maths and English study programmes. Ella and her Assistant Manager, Alison, head up a dedicated team of experienced staff who welcome children of all ages and abilities.

The Linlithgow Kumon centre is one of the top performing Kumon centres in the UK in terms of student progress and achievements. Ella is a highly experienced Instructor, and has been a member of the Kumon Europe and Africa Elite Club for the past nine years (one of only two current Elite Club members in Scotland).

As we begin the new school year, children will start their new school term with fresh notebooks and a crisp new uniform, but it is just as important to ensure that they are equipped with the most vital tools needed for a successful year ahead; a good grip on the core subjects of maths and English and the learning skills required for academic progression.

The Kumon programmes have been established for more than 50 years and enable children to develop their study skills and build confidence as well as strong maths and/or English skills. Kumon develops children through the acquisition of independent learning skills, rather than teaching in the conventional sense. Through daily study of the Kumon programmes, your child will develop the ability to learn for themselves so they do not become dependent on – or limited by – the skills and knowledge of others.

Your child will initially start at a comfortable level, with a focus on building a strong foundation in the way they study; including developing pace, concentration and confidence. Students progress at their own pace, developing a high standard of maths and/or English skills, with the long term aim of allowing students to achieve their potential.

Kumon Educational is the UK's largest supplementary education provider, with over 70,000 students studying at more than 650 study centres.

Your local Kumon centre is based in Cross House in the middle of the town, and classes are open on Mondays and Thursdays after school. Students attend once or twice weekly for approximately half an hour per subject and complete homework daily.



FREE TRIAL OFFER:

The Linlithgow Study Centre is offering a two-week Free Trial (14 days) for new students enrolling between Monday 21 September to Saturday 31 October. Take advantage of this opportunity and find out what your child can achieve with Kumon.

For more information, please join us at an Information Session on Friday 4th September at 3pm at Cross House, Linlithgow, EH49 7AL. Alternatively, please contact Ella Ritchie on 01506 202737 or email linlithgow@kumoncentre.co.uk for more information or to arrange a free assessment for your child.

Alison Maternaghan

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The Linlithgow Eat & Drink Festival

MONDAY 21ST – SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2015

As part of the development of the Linlithgow Town Centre BID, 2014 saw the inaugural Linlithgow Eat and Drink held at The Burgh Halls on a gloriously sunny September Sunday. The event was put together as a demonstration of what an operational BID could achieve. It attracted 1500 people and gave local businesses an opportunity to engage with customers in an unusual environment.

Following the endorsement of the BID business plan by Town Centre businesses in 2014, the newly formed Linlithgow Town Centre BID Company has taken the event from its one day origins and is putting on a week-long celebration of the Food & Drink businesses in the Town Centre.

As part of the 2015 Year of Food & Drink in Scotland, the Board are delighted to bring the event back to Linlithgow and celebrate the outstanding food & drink that is produced and consumed in the town!



From
21/27
SEPT

UNIQUE EVENTS

Throughout the week long celebration, Monday 21st to Sunday 27th September, there will be unique events held in food & drink businesses across the Town Centre.

There will be special menus, great value offers and tasting sessions in the local businesses in Linlithgow. If you haven't completed the Linlithgow Ale Trail, this is the perfect week to do so and get your limited edition T-Shirt.

More information will be available on our Facebook page Eat Drink Linlithgow or on twitter @eatdrinklithgae, and keep an eye out for more details in store.

It's a great excuse to try somewhere new, or rediscover an old favourite!



FARMERS MARKET

Sat
26
SEPT

The Farmers Market on Saturday 26th September will be spiced up for the Linlithgow Eat and Drink 2015 event, with extra stalls and extra locations!

As well as appearing at The Cross, there will be stalls around town, encouraging you to explore our Food Trail and experience new tasty treats.

Follow us on Facebook, Eat Drink Linlithgow or on twitter @eatdrinklithgae to find out more!

FOOD FESTIVAL

Sun
27
SEPT

This year's event is expanded to run over the course of a week, culminating in the Food & Drink showcase on Sunday 27th September.

The beautiful Burgh Halls is the venue for the Food Festival, with over 30 stalls showcasing the best in local food & drink, as well as unique exhibitors from all over Scotland, located both inside and outside in the picturesque Rose Garden.

There will be live cooking demonstrations from local hotels, restaurants and cafes on the balcony. The 2014 event featured Brodies of Linlithgow who held a master class on cupcake icing, Delhis Winter served up Scottish seafood with an Indian twist, and the Star & Garter and West Port Hotel each delivered their own take on scallops. **This event is FREE.**

LINLITHGOW FOOD & DRINK HAMPER

To celebrate the high quality food and drink produced in Linlithgow Town Centre, we are launching our fantastic Linlithgow Food and Drink hamper during the week. It will contain great produce from a selection of Linlithgow businesses and will be an ideal gift.

Follow us on Facebook, Eat Drink Linlithgow or on twitter @eatdrinklithgae to find out more!

For more information, please contact: Stewart Ness, Linlithgow BID Coordinator
 stewart@linlithgowtowncentrebid.co.uk 07717865225
 Facebook: eat drink Linlithgow Twitter @eatdrinklithgae

YOUR GARDEN CAN FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE WEATHER!

New Hopetoun Gardens

It remains to be seen if we are going to get an Indian Summer after the non-event of summer this year. But what is certain is that we will get at least three months of winter from December through to March and now is the time to prepare your garden for this cold bleak season. With a little planning your garden could cheer you up through the short, dull days of winter.

Every time you arrive home or leave home you could be cheered up with some plants and flowers at your front door. Plant outdoor cyclamen now to perform up to Christmas and pansies after the middle of September to flower on and off all winter. There are lots of evergreen plants that will perform in your pots all winter and you can pop in some bulbs to come up and flower towards the end of the winter - Lesley calls them 'buried treasure' because you plant them now and then they delight, and sometimes surprise you when they pop up and flower in the spring.

When you are home in the daylight the view through patio doors into your back garden provides a great opportunity for some plants to lift your spirits, and if you have a light on your patio you can enjoy the view after dark if you leave the curtains open.



Last winter we put small pots of dwarf bulbs (Iris and crocus) into a lantern on the patio table. We planted these in September and kept them in the cold greenhouse ready to bring indoors in late winter. But

they didn't last long in the warm house, so we kept them outside in the lantern protected from the wet and enjoyed them for a couple of weeks.

The patio is a great place for a miniature garden, perhaps with a Fairy House? We would explain that you aren't likely to spot the fairies as they are very shy, but it's good to know you've provided them with a good home which is also delightful for you to watch.

But we should warn you that this is slightly addictive and if you have always enjoyed

playing with Dolls Houses you will be very vulnerable to an addiction with Fairy gardens!



Don't forget the birds that visit your garden: feeding them regularly and providing fresh water can make you feel good and watching their antics in your garden is always very entertaining.

If you haven't cleaned out your bird feeders this is a good job to do now, keep them clean and hygienic for your visitors.

Dougal Philip and Lesley Watson

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PARTY AT THE PALACE 2015... Ian Macartney's Pick of the Bunch!

The second year of Party At The Palace was expected to be better than the first, and it did not disappoint. Not only were the services improved, the acts were on par, if not better, than last year's. So much so that there's too much to publish in the magazine; the following is an abridged summary of what each act brought to the weekend.

To read the full article, go to The Black Bitch website, at <http://www.linlithgowcommunitymagazine.co.uk/>



SATURDAY: AT THE PALACE

Horse

Returning from last year is the singer-songwriter Horse. While last year she came with an orchestral/folk accompaniment, this year she replaced this with a rock band set-up. Despite this shift in genre, the main ingredients that make Horse stand out – the lyrics and the powerful voice – remained. In fact, it's entirely possible that she broke the world record for longest note sung; the official record is 21 seconds, but the one she managed to sustain was up to 25. Whether or not she breaks the current record, the act was still a great addition to the line-up, especially with her warm and funny attitude towards the audience.

The Feeling

Although Travis were headlining Saturday, The Feeling had enough energy and stage prowess to seem worthy of the position. With non-stop intense guitar playing, the group played through their set with gusto, guitar solos sometimes entering into psychedelic territory simply from their progressive length. With an interesting emphasis on bass, they managed to get the crowd going, playing ubiquitous hit after ubiquitous hit (like "Fill My Little World" and "Love It

When You Call") along with songs from their most recent album, "Boy Cried Wolf".

Travis

Sporting a magnificent beard as per some bizarre experiment to experience seniority while still only 42, Fran Healy walked on stage with the rest of his band and played their best show of 2015. Admittedly, it was also their only show, but they didn't disappoint regardless. Building up the hype The Feeling had given them, the band refrained from playing any content from their most recent album and instead played a polished, inexhaustible set of hits truly embedded within the soft rock canon. Switching from guitar to guitar at the end of nearly each song, it was apparent that Travis were not pulling any punches for their one show of the year. The band's tight, close-knit performances helped provide friendly banter too (especially at one point, in which lead guitarist Andy Dunlop dropped one of the guitars). And then, as if willed by Fran Healy's God-given powers as the bearer of glorious platinum hair, while playing their encore piece "Why Does It Always Rain On Me?", it began to rain. Such is the power of music.

SUNDAY: AT THE PALACE

Jamie And Shoony

Next up were Jamie And Shoony, definitely the most lively act of the whole weekend. Coming back from last year (back when they were winners of the Battle Of The Bands contest for the opening act of 2014's Party At The Palace), their devil-may-care attitude and relentless energy got the crowd going. Their style was a wide mixture, from grunge to hip-hop flows to spoken-word delivery, and all with a punk edge to it. Coupled with the bizarre and infectious vocals, you've got an act that is impossible to forget (especially with a memorable end to their set, in which the lead singer Jamie crowd-surfed). They were one of the best acts there, and by far the most hardcore.

Scouting For Girls

Next up were the millions-selling pop rock group Scouting For Girls. Playing a polished set including their hits (like "She's So Lovely" and "I Wish I Was James Bond") to songs from their most recent album, like "Life's Too Short", and even a cover of "Live And Let Die". Thanks to their infectious lyrics, the band could get connected to the audience very easily; in fact, lead singer Roy Stride often

called the audience "the fifth member of Scouting For Girls". Just like The Feeling yesterday, Scouting For Girls could easily have been the headline act, with all the energy they brought with them.

Nile Rodgers (& CHIC)

Nobody exactly knew what Nile Rodgers was going to bring to Party At The Palace. It would be great, that was expected, but with a line-up of nearly non-stop rock, what could we expect from the man who had moulded the pop landscape, the man who saved funk from dying in the 80s, the man who only in the last year won three Grammys? The answer was a monumental finale to an already great weekend. It truly was on another level, with each band member putting all their talent into giving the crowd a true party, be it in the amazing bass, the brilliant drumming and the wonderful vocals. At the end, with VIP members (including Susan Boyle) dancing on stage alongside the band, it was truly an amazing set of songs (21 to be exact) to end another fantastic Party At The Palace.

Ian Macartney



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LINLITHGOW FOLK FESTIVAL

17 YEARS

THE EMILY SMITH BAND



THE MAIRS FAMILY BAND



BLUE DUBH

AWARD-WINNING EMILY HEADLINES "FRIENDLY FESTIVAL"

The highly-acclaimed singer and instrumentalist, **Emily Smith**, will be the headline act at this year's Linlithgow Folk Festival in September.

Described by BBC Radio 2 as *"one of Scotland's most distinctive voices...exquisite and uplifting"* and by the Guardian newspaper as *"Scotland's most impressive songwriter"*, Emily Smith's most recent accolade was being named as Scots Singer of the Year for 2014.

She recently began a fresh chapter in her illustrious award-winning, TV-appearing career with the launch of her fifth solo album "Echoes". Hailed as "the freshest sounding Folk album in an age", it was warmly received on both sides of the Atlantic. www.emilysmith.org

Emily Smith will be joined by her band for the headline concert on Saturday September 12th, the high point of the 17th Linlithgow Folk Festival, running from the 9th to the 13th of September.

First staged in 1999, the five-day celebration of traditional music, dance and song is firmly established on the traditional music scene and all the mainstay events, unique to Linlithgow, will take place again. **These include the musical cruises on the canal, the family ceilidh at the Vennel, the Hub at the Masonic Hall, the Bluegrass concert and Gospel session, and the outdoor Nora Devine Stage at the Cross. The Black Bitch Tavern and other hostelrys will also be hosting musical sessions, which are always a huge part of any folk festival.**

The organisers are not resting on their laurels, however and there will be several innovations this year. One of these is a **Blues Night in the Bowling Club in Philip Avenue with Blue Dubh**, who have performed all over Scotland and been regular visitors to top music festivals.

There will also be a children's show at the Cross on the Saturday morning, featuring budding young performers, including the **Linlithgow Community Children's Choir**.

Festival secretary, **Jonathan Moore**, explained:

"We are trying to keep things fresh, as well as continuing to raise the bar. This year, various new events will be taking place, along with all the old favourites. There is something for everyone over the five days of the Festival and we are encouraging as many people as possible to come along and get involved."

"We are hoping to add in other events in the build-up to the Festival, bringing new venues into play. The printed programme is not an exhaustive list and there is plenty of scope for other events to be added in. We are keen to see as many people as possible taking part."

As in previous years, the **Oot n Aboot** initiative will be taking the Festival out to the wider community, as Jonathan Moore explained:

"The Oot n Aboot team will be performing at various venues, including the canal centre, Annet House and Brae Court sheltered housing, where the residents are always royally entertained."

Bluegrass music has been a popular feature of the Linlithgow Folk Festival for many years now and Jonathan



says that fans of the genre are in for a real treat.

“This year’s offering will see a double-bill concert with the Mairs Family Band and the Dapper McDans in the Queen Margaret Hall on the Friday night and the famous Bluegrass gospel session in the Masonic Hall on the Sunday morning.”

The outdoor **Nora Devine Stage** at the Cross on the Saturday and Sunday will provide budding entertainers with an opportunity to showcase their talents at the very heart of the Festival. A comprehensive programme has been arranged, featuring musicians and singers of all ages.

> Full details of the programme can be found in the 12-page full colour Folk Festival guide, available at the Burgh halls and other local outlets.

> You can also download the brochure (PDF) from our website.

There is also a comprehensive run down on the website www.linlithgowfolk.com.

Most of the Festival events are free, including the Nora Devine Stage at the Cross. Payment for ticketed events can be made at the box office in the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow, tel. 01506 282720. An online ticketing service is available via www.linlithgowfolk.yapsody.com

The Folk Festival Association’s strap line is Friendly folk in Linlithgow and a warm welcome is assured to festival-goers from home and abroad.

Wed-Sun
9-13
Sept

Murdoch Kennedy



Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge Community Council

Following the Public Health Consultation in September 2014, the Community Council invites people of Linlithgow and out-with for the upcoming PUBLIC TALK.

INVITATION:

LLBCC Health & Care
Working Group
verena.throp@llbcc.org.uk



EATING DISORDERS ADDICTIONS and SELF-HARM

PUBLIC TALK

FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER,
BURGH HALLS
7.30pm – 10.00pm

Speakers:

Angie Robinson -
Senior Community Mental
Health Nurse in Addictions

Verena Throp -
Medical Nurse BSc RGN

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and Linlithgow Bridge
Community Council

1st Step Recovery Café
BRING & BUY SALE AND BBQ!!!
Saturday 5th September
1.30-3.30pm
The 1st Step Recovery Café, based at Longcroft Hall, Linlithgow, is run by people who are themselves in recovery from addictive behaviour and who are now committed to helping others achieve happier and more productive lives.
EVERY TUESDAY, 12.30 to 3pm
Money is being raised in memory of Neil William Paterson 28.09.78 - 18.09.11
facebook First Step Cafe

Sat
5
SEPT

It was Neil who had to want to make the changes in his life. Neil had a couple of psychotic breaks and we tried everything to get him help for his mental state but sadly because he had addiction issues it was not forth coming. Even after two suicide attempts, in both of which he nearly died and I found and resuscitated him, he was sent out into the world without support.

Donna's story...

My name is Donna and Neil William Paterson is my son who sadly completed suicide on the 18th September 2011, age 32.

My son was a daddy who was handsome, funny, articulate, loyal man who I loved more than life itself and if I could have changed places with him and taken his pain away I would have. I loved sharing time with and I only ever think of him with a smile.

Neil would give people my telephone number if he found out they had a family member with addiction issues. We discussed many times the sort of help we felt would benefit people with addiction and their family members.

Neil suffered from depression since age 15 and started self medicating with hash, party drugs and eventually after serving a prison sentence he came home addicted to heroin. We as a family supported Neil as much as we could but as everyone knows this was his journey and nothing we did could help.

Neil became a dad and his entire world revolved around his daughter when ever he could be with her.

Sadly the circumstances of the relationship with his daughters mum was not good and even getting clean did not help.

Neil could not see a future without being a dad and he was heart broken. Neil was no longer using drugs when he died but life had just overwhelmed him.

I was lucky to be Neil's mum and because I shared his journey I believe I should do something in his memory to help others in similar circumstances. My son was effected by mental health, addiction, homelessness and suicide and I am planning on setting up a charity in his memory to help people who are suffering in the same way as he did.

Please support us on the 5th Sept to raise money for the recovery café in Linlithgow a very worthy cause. I look forward to meeting everyone please say hello :)

Donna

Neil William Paterson's Mum



“**D**reich” and “Scunnered” are two good Scots words which have been used a lot this year in conjunction with the terrible summer weather and both have been picked up by French student, Celia Toublanc, during her stay in Linlithgow.

She has also learned to say “Hoosie”, which describes her accommodation, and “Cuddle”, a reflection of the warm welcome she has been given since arriving in the town on July 2nd.

Twenty one year old Celia has been doing voluntary work in Linlithgow to improve her English, helping out at the Cancer Research shop, as well as assisting at the EH49 food co-op. Her eagerness to get involved in the local community saw her join the army of volunteers who helped to distribute the last issue of the Black Bitch magazine (see photo) and she also assisted with the running of the cardboard boat race at the Canal Fun Day.

Linlithgow’s strong twinning links with Guyancourt near Paris helped bring Celia to the town. Her auntie Monique was for many years a colleague of Marc Rumelhart at the Horticultural College in Versailles. In 2011, they brought a party of students to Scotland for an extensive tour.

Marc has been involved in the twinning with Linlithgow since it was formalised 26 years ago and comes with his wife Nicole every year to sing and play as part of the “McFroggies” at the Linlithgow Folk Festival. Through Marc’s contacts, especially Grace and Neil Macdonald, Celia’s auntie was able to organise for her to spend some time in the town during her University holidays.



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BENEFIT FROM PARKING AT THE DOOR

Celia explained: *“I wanted to come to Scotland to learn about the country and improve my English and my auntie was able to help through friends of Marc. I am very happy to be here. Linlithgow is a beautiful little town and the people are friendly and very nice. They always like to speak with me in French and I find that funny. They try to help me with my English and simplify things when I don’t understand.”*

From a very early age, Celia has had two great ambitions in life – to be a champion rower and a doctor. She has already taken part in national rowing championships in France and won a silver medal as a junior. During her stay in Scotland, she has been keeping up her training by attending the Stirling rowing club three times a week.

Celia is about to enter the third year of her medical studies at the University of Angers. Paediatrics has always interested her, but, at this early stage, she has no firm view as to what branch of medicine she will pursue.

‘St Michael is kind to strangers’ is something Celia would certainly agree with. She has loved the Scotch Hop ceilidhs at the Palace and the folk music sessions in the local pubs. She has enjoyed working with people in Linlithgow and seeing the local countryside. Going on trips with her Linlithgow friends and discovering places such as St Andrews, the East Neuk of Fife, Gullane and Oban have been particular highlights.

When I asked whether Scotland would always have a place in her heart, Celia simply replied:

“It already has a place my heart. I would like to come and study in Edinburgh for a semester, if that were possible. I will certainly come back again to Scotland”

Murdoch Kennedy





WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

OR, HOW LINLITHGOW PLAYERS PROVED RAIN DOESN'T STOP PLAY.

The Linlithgow Players ventured out of their comfort zone this year to take on Shakespeare - with a new twist. For those of you who saw their production of 'What...You Will?' or, 'Twelfth Night', at Donaldson's in April, you may remember that they re-wrote this famous play in modern language, keeping two of the main characters in Shakespeare's own tongue. The result was something that the Royal Shakespeare Company approved of, and they asked the Players to perform their own version at their outdoor theatre The Dell in Stratford-Upon-Avon in July. 20 of them duly travelled down to represent Linlithgow in this famous place!

However, when we, the audience, arrived at the outside stage at the Dell we saw members of Linlithgow Players standing around forlornly under dripping trees debating the best course of action. It had been decided that their play could not go ahead as the stage was too slippery. Plan B was to perform under the partial shelter of nearby trees. Plan C was to use a bandstand - but this was ruled out because of its proximity to the booming loudspeaker commentary accompanying a day of raft races on the river. It looked like a case of rain stops play.

Then a minor miracle happened. A friend of the local vicar suggested asking if it was possible to use the Holy Trinity church hall across the road and, coincidentally, a stone's throw from the Bard's resting place, and to everyone's delight, he agreed and the Players rushed inside to set up the scenery and don costumes. Many members of the congregation who had been having coffee decided to stay - considerably boosting audience numbers.

After a bout of frenzied activity, the play began with a ship-wrecked Viola (Liz Drewett) lamenting the loss of her twin brother Sebastian (Mark Eggeling) as she arrived on the shores of modern day Scotia - a thinly disguised version of Scotland. The ensuing action took place around the estates of the love-sick rock star Duke (Gavin MacDonald) and the object of his desire, American film star Olivia (Therese Gallacher). Enter Viola, now disguised as a man, to complicate things with a love triangle which sees Olivia falling for her. The plot thickens with Maria (Sue Spencer), a mischievous Hungarian house-keeper, Olivia's drunken uncle Toby (Ian Stewart) and his gormless gullible sidekick Andrew (Ray Myers) who set out to fool estate manager Malcolm (Les Fulton) into thinking Olivia has fallen for him. Meanwhile, Sebastian is far from drowned but has been rescued by Tony (David Wotherspoon) and turns up to complicate things further.

The play moved along at a cracking pace and breathed new life into Shakespeare's classic tale of mistaken identity and romance. The cast had worked as a team to re-write their lines in modern speech, except for the two characters who arrive from 'Shakespeare Land' - twin siblings Olivia and Sebastian. With its comic timing and superb acting, it was easy to see why the play, first performed in their home town of Linlithgow as part of the Royal Shakespeare Company's Open Stages project, had won the accolade of being selected to be performed in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The entire play centres around the many predicaments faced by Viola, a part played to perfection by Liz Drewett and supported by a truly talented cast. There were many magical moments but the one that brought the house down was when Malcolm is duped into wearing a bright yellow tartan outfit to go a-wooing. Another highlight was the ongoing boozy banter between Toby and Andrew which was expertly timed for maximum comic effect and the whole production was a delight to watch. It was directed with flair by Sandra Moar.

We felt so privileged to have seen this play which the dismal weather threatened to cancel. As one person commented, "Being able to perform in the church hall was a godsend."

It certainly proves that where there's a will there's a way - and I'm sure Will Shakespeare himself couldn't have plotted it better.

Phil Mansell

Day	Time	Venue	Event
Wed	7.30 - 9.30pm	Bowling Club	Kind Tea & Music
Thu	7.30 - 10pm	Black Bitch	Pub & Sings
Thu	8 - 11.30pm	Tommy's	Pub & Sings
Thu	9 - 11.30pm	Star & Quarter	Pub & Sings
Fri	2 - 5pm	Star & Quarter	Pub & Sings
Fri	7 & 8.15pm	Canal Centre	Pub & Sings
Fri	7.30pm	Queen Margaret Hall	Pub & Sings
Fri	8pm	Bowling Club	Pub & Sings
Sat	10.30am - 2pm	Maritime	Pub & Sings
Sat	10.30am - 2pm	Strap House	Pub & Sings
Sat	11am - 1.30pm	The Crown	Pub & Sings
Sat	11.30am - 1.30pm	Spicer's Ch	Pub & Sings
Sat	11.30am - 1.30pm	Plaid	Pub & Sings
Sat	11.30am - 1.30pm	Plaid	Pub & Sings

THE SIXTH LINLITHGOW CLASSIC CAR DAY – “A CLASSIC EVENT”

SUNDAY 30 AUGUST 2015.

www.linlithgowclassics.com



What started small seven years ago in 2008, with three or four guys being asked to wheel out their cars to brighten up the town centre on an occasional Saturday morning, has grown in size to become the Linlithgow Classics Car Group (www.linlithgowclassics.com).

With more than 40 members, and not only from Linlithgow but from a much wider area, it is open to anyone who likes old cars. You might have seen the cars at the Cross or the Vennel between April and September. Over the last several years the Group's cars have supported the open day at Donaldson's School, the Steelyard Day in Bathgate, the Round Table Fun Day, both Linlithgow and Broxburn Gala Days (we won first prize in the 2012) processions), the Ferry Fair, the recent Forth Bridges Festival and, of course, the Linlithgow Marches, winning the Gazette Trophy this year for the best local entry.

However, pride of place during the season is the group's sixth Classic Car Day being held on Sunday 30 August 2015.

The day is now an official event for Visit West Lothian, and has become part of the UK classic car events calendar. It attracts classic cars, vans and motor bikes from all over Scotland, and has now become an attraction to car owners from England as well, putting the town well and truly on the map. What in its first year attracted 40-odd cars has grown to more than 100 entries this year. This year's entries include super-cars, pre and post-war MGs, vintage Austins, Morris, Austin-Healeys, Jaguar E-Types, TRs, Fords, World War II Jeeps, American 'muscle-cars', Minis, Aston Martins, Rovers, Morgans, Maseratis, Jensens, Rileys, Sunbeams, and a whole lot more.

You'll find the cars around the Cross and all along the Vennel from, lunchtime (12.30pm) until teatime (4.30-5pm), making a spectacle and making a noise... largely courtesy of our friends from Radio Grapevine, St John's Hospital's charity radio station.

The day sees the cars gather in the morning at the Park Bistro beside the canal for a bacon roll and coffee or two. This is followed by a road run round the area to the Falkirk Wheel, taking in the sight of the Kelpies in Falkirk en route. It's a colourful and raucous spectacle, which for the past few years

(and again this year) has been kindly opened by West Lothian Council Provost Tom Kerr.

The event is organised and run entirely by volunteers, but couldn't take place without the help and assistance of a host of local businesses who assist through hugely welcome sponsorship and support. In return the organisers try their best to keep everything spent on organisation locally where they can. And of course this year, once more, a big classic car cake made by Truly Scrumptious Designer Cakes will be on show running up to the event in the shop window beside the Cross! The Group annually donates the cake to the St Michael's Day Care Centre.

So look out for the event, the cars, the big car cake, and the 'Best Car of the Show' first prize showcased before the event in Robert Callander Optician's window. Note the date down in your diary, and hope once more we're blessed by glorious weather for everyone - the owners, drivers, passengers, visitors, mums, dads and kids to have a brilliant time... and probably loads of ice cream!

We look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 30 August... vroom, vroom!!

Dave Keddie
Linlithgow Classic Car Group

CCW Linlithgow 10K and Junior Fun Run



We've had Party at the Palace, the three day music festival, but now it's time for a different theme at the Peel as we gear up for the mini running festival that is the CCW Linlithgow 10k and Junior Fun Run, which this year will be staged on Sunday 20 September. Hopefully, all the dancing will have helped prepare the legs for the running!

The 10k route has remained largely unchanged over the years and the 23rd edition brings no difference. The race will start at The Vennel, with runners heading west, before a right turn at the West Port. Upon reaching the outskirts of the town, they will be directed down past Jock Mason's corner and up into Linlithgow Bridge, back along the High Street to the West Port again, where a quick left, right, left turn combination will see them heading around the back of the loch, admiring the Linlithgow Palace view. The final loop sends the runners around past Bonnytoun Farm and down towards Oracle before the last dash along the Blackness Road, through the grounds of the Low Port and into the Peel.

Those 8-15 year olds who enter the shorter Junior Fun Run (roughly 2k) will also head along the High Street to the West Port but

will then be directed lochside and will finish with a lap of the Peel.

Last year's statistics show that 29 per cent of the 10k entrants were from the Linlithgow and Linlithgow Bridge area and it would be lovely to welcome the same or even a greater percentage from the town. For the record, the kids are way ahead with 68 per cent coming from the town.

Some will enter purely as a challenge, although others may have a competitive streak. Paul Sorrie has been the winner for the last seven Linlithgow 10k events – someone has to beat him sometime. Could it be this year?

Of course, people make the event. From the runners themselves, to the townsfolk who come out to lend their support and cheer the runners on to great things, and finally the team of volunteers who help stage the events and provide much-appreciated guidance and support for the runners.

There are still opportunities available for all the roles mentioned above. Entries are still being taken for both the 10k and the Junior Fun Run, the volunteer team is currently being assembled and, of course, anyone is welcome to come and cheer on the runners.

The event brings a lot of people into the area and provides a boost to some of the

local businesses in the centre of town. Whatever you decide to do, we would love it if people again made use of those on the day, especially given the disruption many have endured with the recent roadworks.

Anyone wishing to enter the 10k can do so online via Entry Central – there is a link to this on the club website 10k page <http://www.linlithgowac.org.uk/linlithgow-10k>. Entries to the 10k must be made in advance.

Postal entries will be accepted for the Junior Fun Run, with a downloadable form available on the fun run page <http://www.linlithgowac.org.uk/linlithgowfunrun>. It is anticipated that fun run entries will also be available on the day.

Anyone that does not wish to run but would still like to be involved is invited to e-mail linlithgow10k@virginmedia.com and offer their services as a volunteer.

Linlithgow Athletic Club would like to see as many of you as possible on race day, Sunday 20 September, in whatever capacity you choose.

Graeme Lawson
Race Director, Linlithgow 10k

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BOOK REVIEW FREEZE FRAME PETER MAY

Lisa Nettleton

Freeze Frame is the fourth book in the Enzo MacLeod Investigation series and does not fail to deliver the intrigue, drama and colourful descriptions of May's previous novels.

Enzo MacLeod is a widowed Scottish forensics expert who has travelled far from his Glaswegian roots to live in Cahors, France alongside his daughters. A sufferer of Waardenburg Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder, MacLeod makes for an impressionable figure: an enigmatic, kilt-wearing, hardy Scot with a perceptive mind, sharp wit and weakness for a well-aged malt.

In this book, Enzo finds himself travelling alone to Ile de Grox, a remote, tiny isle off the coast of France. May paints a vivid picture of the harsh, wild Brittany landscape. Enzo aims to unravel the secrets of a mysterious crime scene which has remained intact and largely undisturbed for 20 years since the death of its owner, Adam Killian. He finds Killian's widowed daughter-in-law frozen in time, unable to move forwards with her own life, waiting until she can understand the events which led up to the seemingly unprovoked attack on this mild-mannered professor of tropical medical genetics.

Upon his arrival at Ile de Grox, MacLeod finds himself instantly recognisable – not least because of the distinctive white stripe running through his long pony-tailed hair. The media interest surrounding his previous case successes has preceded him and this leads to some interesting and dramatic exchanges with the secretive inhabitants of the island who



have an active interest in the outcome of his investigation. He discovers there are some islanders who have a vested interest in ensuring that the secrets of the past remain buried.

The motivation behind Enzo's involvement in cold cases such as this is of a personal nature. Several years previously he made a bet with a colleague at Paul Sabatier University in Toulouse about his ability to crack eight of France's unsolved murders using modern technological advancements. Details of his personal life are intertwined with the storyline providing some interesting plot twists and emotional insights into the life and history of the rugged detective.

Freeze Frame is an enjoyable, satisfying fast-paced novel with plenty of plot twists, historical references and cryptic clues about the motivations of the characters, past and present, to keep readers guessing about the finale until the final pages.

Lisa is a member of the book group which meets at 7.30pm in local bookstore Far From the Madding Crowd. The next meeting is Tuesday 1st September at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

The retail price for Freeze Frame is £7.99 – this and other Peter May novels are available to buy in Far From the Madding Crowd.



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David Tait:
on.a.lead@gmail.com



Last month's
Party at the Palace
family tickets winner

**Anne Marie
Clement**

Written and illustrated by Marjory Boyle Crooks © www.bonnietheblackbitch.co.uk e: bonnietheBB@gmail.com

The Adventures of
Bonnie The Black Bitch
The Mystery of the dead Swan
Part 12.
At Blackness.....

Bonnie tried to tell Diana that
Merrow had been captured
by the Faeries at Binny Craig.

But the Peryton
gates were locked
and she couldn't
get in.

In the Palace kitchens the cook
was complaining to the Green
Man that she was running out
of King Stewart's favourite food.

She also told him
that the swans
were eating all the
fish in the loch.

**BONNIE
CARDS &
PRINTS**
for sale at Wilsons
Newsagent at
The Cross.

Events List

For more details and more events visit the
what's on page at www.linlithgow.com

Aug

Sat 29 Linlithgow Rose v Hill of Beath Hawthorn 2.30pm, Prestonfield

Sept

Tue 1 Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting, 7.45pm - 9.45pm, Low Port Centre, Blackness Rd

Thu 3 Folk Session, 8.00pm, Football & Cricketers' Arms

Sat 5 WLCCA 3rd XI vs. Dunnikier 1st XI, 1.00pm, Boghall Cricket Ground

Linlithgow Rose v Crossgates Primrose, 2.30pm, Prestonfield

Sun 6 WLCCA 3rd XI vs. Dunfermline Wanderers 1st XI 1.00pm, Boghall Cricket Ground

Mon 7 Paddington - Linlithgow Film Society, 7.45pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Wed 9 LFFA: Kind Tae Strangers 7.30pm to 9.30pm Linlithgow Bowling Club

Thu 10 LFFA: An Evening of Poetry & Song, 7.30pm, Black Bitch Tavern (upstairs)

LFFA: Pub Session, 8.00pm Football & Cricketers Arms

LFFA: The Tonkerers! - Live in Linlithgow! 9.00pm Star and Garter Hotel

Fri 11 LFFA: Session at the Star 2.00pm to 5.00pm, Star & Garter Hotel

LFFA: Musical Cruises with LUCS 7.00pm and 8.15pm, Canal Centre

LFFA: Bluegrass Concert with The Mairs Family Band, 7.30pm to 10.30pm Queen Margaret Hall, Blackness Road

LFFA: Blues Night with Blue Dubh 8.00pm, Linlithgow Bowling Club

LFFA: The Session Scene 8.00pm Black Bitch Tavern and various

Sat 12 LFFA: Craft Fair 10.30am to 4.00pm, Cross House, Linlithgow

LFFA: Festival Hub @ the Masonic Hall, 10.30am to 5.00pm The Masonic Hall

LFFA: Music at the Cross on the Nora Devine Stage, 10.30am to 5.00pm The Cross, Linlithgow

LFFA: Come and Sing - Chorus Songs 11.00am to 12.30pm, St Peter's Church, 153 High Street

LFFA: Step We Ceilidh - On We Go 11.30am to 1.30pm, Masonic Hall, Linlithgow

LFFA: Songwriting Workshop with Andy Shanks, 2.00pm to 4.00pm Adam Room, Cross House, Linlithgow

LFFA: Songs and Music at the Canal 2.00pm to 4.30pm, Canal Centre, Manse Road

LFFA: Headline Concert with the Emily Smith Band, 7.30pm Linlithgow Academy Theatre

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra 7.30pm, St Michael's Parish Church

LFFA: Pub Sessions, Afternoon Various

Doors Open Day, Various times West Lothian wide

Sun 13 LFFA: Music at the Cross on the Nora Devine Stage, 1.00pm to 5.00pm, The Cross, Linlithgow

LFFA: Bluegrass Gospel Session 11.00am to 12.30pm, Masonic Hall, Market Lane, Linlithgow

LFFA: Songs and Music at the Bowling Club, 2.00pm to 4.00pm Linlithgow Bowling Club

LFFA: Open Air Family Ceilidh with Cockeroy, 2.30pm to 4.30pm The Vennel, Town Centre

LFFA: Pub Sessions Afternoon, Various

Doors Open Day, Various times West Lothian wide

Mon 14 The Keeper of Lost Causes, Film Society, 7.45pm, Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Tue 15 Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting, 7.45pm - 9.45pm Low Port Centre, Blackness Rd

Wed 16 Floral Art Club, Touch of Glass, Christine Ogle, 7.30pm Linlithgow Rose Football Club

Sun 20 Folk Session, 2.00pm Black Bitch Tavern

Tue 22 Community Council meeting 7.30pm, Burgh Halls

Fri 25 Deacons Court Quiz Night 7.00 for 7.30pm, Queen Margarets Hall

Sat 26 Alzheimer Scotland Memory Walk, 2.00pm, Linlithgow Loch

Mon 28 The Hundred Foot Journey, Linlithgow Film Society, 7.45pm Linlithgow Academy Theatre

Tue 29 Reviving Nature's Arteries 7.30pm, Burgh Halls, Linlithgow

Linlithgow Speakers Club Meeting 7.45pm - 9.45pm, Low Port Centre, Blackness Rd

Oct

Thu 1 Folk Session, 8.00pm Football & Cricketers' Arms

LINLITHGOW RAMBLERS WALKING CALENDAR



With so many exciting walks pencilled in across the monthly calendar why not check out www.linlithgow.com for details on the type of walk, duration and your meeting point.



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FREE TRIAL

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KUMON

Coming in July... New KIDS menu! & New LUNCHTIME menu!



Selected mains

2 for £11.99 including our homemade Steak Pie & Lasagne

(served until 7.00pm)

Senior Citizens

Lunches served daily from 12noon-2.30pm

1 course £4.99

2 courses £5.99

3 courses £6.99

Set Menu

2 courses £9.00

3 courses £11.00

including our homemade soup, lasagne & macaroni cheese

Telephone: 01506 842777 website: www.thebridgeinn.net